

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 172482

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS

SUBJECT: FINAL DAY OF FRASER-NIX HEARINGS

REF: (A) STATE 165648; (B) STATE 167920

SUMMARY: APRIL 5 SESSION OF FRASER-NIX HEARING INCLUDED LIVLIER EXCHANGE BETWEEN CONGRESSMEN AND WITNESSES, BUT WAS SPARSELY ATTENDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS. ONLY FRASER, WOLFF, RYAN, BINGHAM, BROOMFIELD AND WYNN TOOK INTERMITTENT PART IN QUESTIONING. WITNESSES INCLUDED CONGRESSMAN MEEDS; GREGORY HENDERSON; T. JEFFERSON COOLIDGE, CHAIRMAN OF BACK BAY ORIENT; FATHER MICHAEL MCFADDEN OF WONJU DIOCESE, FATHER EDWARD MOFFATT OF PAENGYONG-DO; AND REVEREND STERLING CARY, PRESIDENT OF NCC. HEARING ROOM AGAIN PACKED WITH CROWD SIMILAR TO THAT AT FIRST DAY'S HEARING.

1. FRASER OPENED BY READING STATEMENT OF NIX WHICH NOTED PRIMIN KIM CHONG-PIL'S ESTIMATE THAT EMERGENCY MEASURES MAY BE REQUIRED FOR ANOTHER SEVEN YEARS. STATEMENT ALSO SAID THAT FRASER HAD ASKED AMB HAHM TO INQUIRE WHETHER KIM TAE-CHUNG WOULD BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE KOREA TO TESTIFY AT HEARINGS. FRASER OBSERVED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO RESPONSE FROM EMBASSY.

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2. FIRST WITNESS WAS CONGRESSMAN MEEDS WHO SUMMARIZED JOINT STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF HIMSELF AND CONGRESSMAN MORRIS UDALL. STATEMENT DREW HEAVILY ON IMPRESSIONS GAINED DURING O'NEILL

VISIT IN APRIL AND GREGORY HENDERSON'S ANALYSIS OF YUSHIN CONSTITUTION AND EMERGENCY MEASURES. HE ENDED WITH CALL FOR USG TO DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM REPRESSION WHICH WILL LEAD TO INTERNAL STRIFE AND REVOLUTION. RESULTING QUESTIONING INCLUDED EXCHANGE BETWEEN WOLFF AND MEEDS OVER FACTS RECEIVED IN MEETINGS WITH MISSIONARIES AND EMBASSY STAFF, BUT OTHERWISE GENERALLY SERVED TO AMPLIFY MEEDS' POSITION THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO PUNISH KOREAN PEOPLE BY CUTTING ASSISTANCE, BUT ONLY TO DISASSOCIATE USG FROM ROKG POLICIES.

3. HENDERSON PRESENTED TEN PAGE STUDY ON "POLITICAL REPRESSION IN SOUTH KOREA AND CRITICIZED "GENERALLY EVASIVE AND MISLEADING" DEPT TESTIMONY WHICH SOUGHT TO DEFEND KOREAN POLICY, "LAST YEAR'S GREATEST FOREIGN POLICY FAILURE." HE URGED: (1) ALL AID BE SUSPENDED UNTIL THERE IS A RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT WHICH GUARANTEES BASIC FREEDOMS AND ALL ARRESTED UNDER EMERGENCY DECREES ARE RELEASED, (2) GUARANTEES BE GIVEN THAT US-SUPPLIED ARMS WILL NOT BE USED AGAINST ROK CITIZENS, (3) REGULATIONS BE ESTABLISHED PROHIBITING SALES OF TEAR GAS AND OTHER ANTI-RIOT EQUIPMENT. IN ADDITION TO PREPARED STATEMENT HENDERSON SUPPLIED DOD FIGURES ON ARMISTICE VIOLATIONS WHICH SHOWED PRESENT LEVEL LESS THAN ONE PER CENT OF FIGURE FOR 1967-8. HE CONTRASTED THESE WITH ROKG CLAIMS OF RISING TENSION. HE ENDED WITH SUGGESTION VOA GIVE FULL COVERAGE TO HEARINGS.

4. COOLIDGE READ BRIEF, BLAND STATEMENT URGING THAT CONGRESS NOT JEOPARDIZE SECURITY BY CUTTING ASSISTANCE. FATHER MACFADDEN BEGAN BY NOTING THAT HE HAD ACTIVELY SUPPORTED THE PARK GOVT, YUSHIN CONSTITUTION, AND SAEMAUL MOVEMENT, BUT COULD NOT ACCEPT EMERGENCY DECREES AND TRIALS. HE MADE EMOTIONAL DEFENSE OF BISHOP CHI WHOM HE KNOWS WELL AS HEAD OF HIS DIOCESE.

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5. FATHER MOFFATT CITED EXTENSIVE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH COMMUNISTS AND EMPHASIZED DANGER OF WAR IF NK PERCEIVES UNREST AND CONFUSION WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM ANY AID CUT. MOFFATT WAS CLEARLY MOST PRO-ROKG WITNESS AND RECEIVED BULK OF SUBSEQUENT CRITICAL QUESTIONING.

6. FINAL STATEMENT WAS THAT OF STERLING CARY. HE RECOUNTED RECENT EVENTS IN KOREA INCLUDING GROWING INVOLVEMENT OF

PROTESTANT LEADERS IN REACTION TO REPRESSIVE MEASURES. HE REFUTED CLAIM THAT MEASURES WERE NECESSITATED BY ECONOMIC SITUATION OR THREAT FROM NK AND QUESTIONED ABSENCE OF DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS. FINALLY HE URGED THAT CONTINUED

MILITARY ASSISTANCE BE CONTINGENT UPON: (1) RESCINDING OF EMERGENCY MEASURES 1, 2, AND 4, (2) AMNESTY FOR ALL HELD UNDER THESE MEASURES AND FOR OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS (3) REINSTITUTION OF PARTICIPATORY POLITICAL PROCESSES. AS SUPPLEMENT TO STATEMENT CARY ANNOUNCED NEWS THAT LETTER TO PRESIDENT PARK OR PM KIM FROM PROTESTANT LEADERS CONTAINING SIMILAR DEMANDS WITH AUGUST 15 DEADLINE HAD BEEN DELIVERED THAT DAY.

7. WRITTEN STATEMENTS ALSO SUBMITTED BY FORMER FSO DONALD MACDONALD AND REPRESENTATIVES BROOMFIELD AND MINK. BROOMFIELD URGED CUTS NOT BE MADE. MINK ARGUED FOR ABSOLUTE CUTOFF IF ROKG AS SUPPRESSIVE AS NK REGIME WE ARE DEFENDING AGAINST.

8. COMMITTEE'S QUESTIONING OF PANEL OF WITNESSES FOLLOWING STATEMENTS GENERALLY RESULTED IN LITTLE THAT HAD NOT BEEN COVERED. THERE WAS SOME INTEREST IN HENDERSON IMPLICATION THAT ROKG DELIBERATELY PROVOKED INCIDENTS SUCH AS POLICE BOAT SINKING. HE BACKED OFF TO EXTENT OF EXPLAINING THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR INCIDENTS COULD BE SHARED BY BOTH SIDES. ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXPRESSED AT LEAST MILD DISAPPROVAL OF ROKG POLICIES WITH REPUBLICANS GENERALLY POINTING TO DANGER OF EXTERNAL THREAT AND DOMESTIC UNREST AND DEMOCRATS REJECTING THESE JUSTIFICATIONS. FRASER RECEIVED PROLONGED APPLAUSE IN CLOSING STATEMENT WHEN HE SAID HE WOULD NOT SUPPORT RETURN OF US TROOPS TO KOREA TO DEFEND PRESENT REPRESSIVE REGIME.
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9. COPIES OF STATEMENTS BEING POUCHED. KISSINGER

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